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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/31/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: RUSSIA WILL ATTEND EXPERT-LEVEL NEIGHBORS
CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 8-9 IN BAGHDAD

REF: BAGHDAD 2802

Classified By: Political M/C Alice G. Wells for reasons 1.4 b and d.

(C) Russia will attend the expert-level meeting the GOI plans to host September 8-9 in Baghdad to set the groundwork for the expanded neighbors ministerial scheduled for October in Istanbul. MFA Middle East Department First Secretary Elbrus Kutrashev told us on August 30 that a GOR delegation consisting of staff from its Baghdad Embassy will attend. Citing security concerns, Kutrashev stressed that the GOR would prefer that this and other international meetings be held outside of Iraq in order to avoid requiring Russian diplomats to travel in Baghdad.
Burns